

and in view of the promise contained in his speech that an advisory committee consisting of leaders of this party will be appointed I request the Dewan President to make a statement.

PRESIDENT : No. The Special Officer has stated that only a rough outline of the scheme has been prepared and no details have been worked out. He has said very succinctly and yet very thoroughly considering all the aspects of the matter. It must be clearly understood by the honourable members that the Government do not want to exercise any dictatorial powers in connection with this question of starting a University. They will formulate the scheme and put it in practice only with the universal consent of the people of the State.

MR. N. V. JOSEPH : In view of the assurance given by the President I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried *nem con.*

The grant was made.

DEMAND V—EXCISE DEPARTMENT.—Rs. 7,32,928.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Sir, I beg to move that Rs. 7,32,928 may be allotted for the Excise Department under Demand V.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL : Sir, I beg to move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,513 for Inspectors by Re. 1 to discuss the necessity for improving the quality of salt sold at Munambhom Salt Depot.

Sir, I may congratulate.

PRESIDENT : Order. Order. A little later.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL : In the course of the budget speech, my friend Mr. Mackar Pillai referred to the fact that the salt obtained at the Munambom Depot is inferior in quality and practically half of the quantity of the salt purchased from there was soil.

(At this stage Mr. John Philipose passed between the President and the member who was speaking.)

PRESIDENT : Order. Order. The honourable member should proceed this way.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL : I wish to bring this fact to the notice of this House. We do not know who is responsible for this. It is very difficult to get good salt from the Munambom Depot. Bombay salt is got only in very small quantities. The salt sold at the Depot is mainly composed of, as I said once, half salt and half soil. I hope the Excise Commissioner will see to this and rectify the defects. With these words I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Sir, the salt supplied at the Munambam depot till 1105 was wholly Bombay salt. From that year Since local salt began to be introduced at Munambam Travancore Factories began to yield more and more salt. When salt is available in the State, the Government should find a market for it within the State reducing foreign import to that extent. Now our factories are yielding much more salt every year than what is required for our consumption. In

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the year 1110 our factories produced over 17 lakhs of maunds of salt. In 1111 the output was 13 lakhs. This year, we have so far got over 15 lakhs. The annual consumption at present is about 12 lakhs of maunds. If an important industry like the salt industry is to be encouraged, we should completely shut out foreign salt and be satisfied with our own salt. But the people of North Travancore who were long accustomed to the use of Bombay salt have got a peculiar partiality for that salt and they are prepared to pay a higher price and undergo some risk for getting that salt. But an analysis conducted by our Industrial Chemist has shown that while Bombay salt contains 89 per cent. of sodium chloride our salt contains 87 per cent. the difference being only 2 per cent. That is no reason for condemning local salt.

Mr. Joseph complains that the Salt that the people now get is half soil and half alone salt. Sir, if that be so it must be due to adulteration by the merchants for whom the smallness of the crystals of local salt affords the necessary opportunity. That is not the fault of the department.

If I remember aright, the member also said that Bombay salt was far superior to local salt. I may inform the member that in all places in middle and South Travancore, say from Ambalapuzha and Tiruvella up to Cape Comorin, the people are quite satisfied with local salt. It is all due to a predilection in favour of Bombay salt and a prejudice against local salt on account of the smallness of the crystals. Mr. Mackar Pillai said that he sometimes gets salt from Chowwara for his own daily use when he is not able to get Bombay salt at Alwaye. I do not know whether he realised the full implications of his statement that he was importing salt from Cochin. I did not expect gentlemen of the standing and position of Mr. Mackar Pillai to make such open confession in the Legislative Assembly. I was surprised at his confession.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : May I know the reason why the member should wonder at it?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Sir, we are trying to improve the quality of local salt, and the people of North Travancore will have to be satisfied with our smaller crystals for some time. We do hope to produce bigger crystals. Our Industrial Chemist is carrying on experiments for that purpose. Investigation for the supply of brine direct from the sea is also being carried on. We are also enforcing our Salt Rules strictly. I may assure Mr. Joseph that he will soon be getting local salt equal to Bombay salt in the size of crystals.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL : I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 127.

The following motion was not moved :—

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :

To reduce the allotment of Rs 8,796 for Salt Factories by. Rs. 1.

Motion No. 128.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattunapuram cum Shencotta*) :
Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,796 for Salt Factories by Re. 1.

My object in making this motion is to make a few general observations in regard to the working of the Salt Factories.

Some years ago, Government found that the Salt Factories in Thamaraculam were subject to frequent flooding and as the result of investigations Government declared it their policy not to register away or to make any assignment of poramboke lands either out of the Manakudy lake from which all these factories at Thamaraculam have been reclaimed or out of the area around the lake and the Salt Factories. Contrary to this declaration, Government have been assigning, not wholesale but in bits here and there, poramboke lands in the locality. I may just cite an instance. One of the licensees who was assigned a certain area some time ago has been allowed to add to his acreage gradually, with the result that his area now amounts to about 80 or 85 percent more than his original area. This is the process of indirect assignment that I am referring to. This is a clear violation of the declared policy of Government and I want to draw the pointed attention of Government to this state of affairs.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI : What is the harm in such assignment ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR : I made my point clear, Sir, that it was because the Government realised that the Salt Factories, were subject to frequent flooding, that they declared it as their policy not to assign any more land in the locality. It was as a result of investigations carried on by experts that the seriousness of the problem was realised by the Government and the Government declared that thereafter lands in the locality would not be indiscriminately registered away. It is contrary to such declared policy that they have been going on assigning lands, indirectly though not deliberately. If this process of assignment goes on, the problem will repeat itself at no distant date and the Government will be faced with the problem of flooding once again.

When the Government were confronted within the problem of flooding of factories, they found, as a result of investigation, that the Manakudi lake was being silted up badly from year to year by the Pazhayar river and the silting up was contributing to the flooding. Government undertook to remove the silt periodically and to lower the level of the bed of the lake to the extent necessary to maintain its original depth. I find that that is not being done. I would urge that the department takes up the matter and see that the level of the bed of the lake does not rise substantially.

With these observations, I move my motion.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : Sir, I was considerably surprised by the observation made by the Excise Commissioner on Mr. Macker Pillai's statement, that occasionally he had to send for his daily salt to Chowwara. Sir, does the Excise Commissioner think that we are expected to eat the mud that he supplies us, and have no right to complain.

PRESIDENT : The Excise Commissioner says that it is not mud.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : It is sand. Mr. Vithayathil Joseph complained that the salt contained soil which I take to be mud. Mr. Macker Pillai complains that it is sand. Now, Sir, what is the explanation of the Excise Commissioner? He flings the blame upon the licensees; he is not himself prepared to take it. I want to point out to him that it is due to the improper and inefficient supervision of the factories that the whole trouble has arisen. There is no use in throwing mud at the licensees. There is no use in finding faults. The Excise Commissioner must be prepared to share a portion of the blame. His department is mainly responsible to the public. Let me just put one question to the Excise Commissioner. He complains that the percentage of sodium chloride is less in local salt by about 2 per cent. than in Bombay salt. Why is it less by 2 per cent? Are not our rules sufficient and ample for the purpose of seeing to it that local salt also contains the same percentage of sodium chloride as Bombay salt. There is a rule in our Salt Rules that salt must be removed from the pans when the brine has reached a particular degree. I request you, Sir, in all earnestness, to call for the registers kept in the factories and see whether this is being checked by the Excise Inspectors at the spot and whether the salt is not allowed to remain in the pans till the brine attains 40 or 45 degrees. What would be the result? I am myself not a chemist, Sir, and therefore cannot explain it fully and clearly. So far as I have been able to understand, because the salt is not separated from the brine at the proper time, certain other chemicals in the brine also get solidified. That is the reason for the lower percentage of sodium chloride in local salt. Sir, it was after a thorough investigation of the question, after carrying on a number of experiments, that Government have laid down the rule that the salt must be removed when the brine has reached a particular degree of density. Does the Excise Commissioner hold himself responsible for the purity of the salt that he is now supplying us? Salt is one of the essential necessities of mankind. There is no use in merely saying that it is the licensees that are at fault. It is the duty of the Excise Commissioner to give us proper salt. If he is not able to do that, let the Government give up their control altogether, give up their monopoly. So long as they retain their monopoly, it is their duty to see that the salt supplied is eatable. There is no use in condemning us if we secure our necessities from outside markets.

Sir the Excise Commissioner said that sand was being mixed with salt by the licensees. When is it done? Is it in the factory? Is it under

the very nose of the Excise Inspectors? Is it on the way from the factory to the depots? What preventive measures have been taken by the Excise Commissioner? Is it proper for a responsible officer of the Government to rest content with merely stating that the mischief was being done by the people? I make pointed reference to this fact because Government must tighten their control over the manufacture and issue of salt. I do not for a moment say that all the licensees are carrying on their work in the most satisfactory manner. Far from it. But it is not for the Excise Commissioner to throw the blame upon the licensees. That is what I want to protest against.

MR. S. CHATTANATHAKARAYALAR: May I ask the member whether the Excise Commissioner said that sand was being mixed with salt by the licensees or by the vendors?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, the licensees may stand by the Excise Commissioner, and the Excise Commissioner by the licensees.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: I am asking about a question of fact.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: I heard it in the manner I gave expression to. The Excise Commissioner and the licensees may sail in the same boat, probably along with the salt that is available, and throw the blame on the vendors. All that we want is unadulterated salt, salt examined and certified to be eatable by the chemical examiner of Government.

I also request the Government to see whether the proper examination of the salt is being conducted by the chemical examiner. On that point also, the public have serious apprehensions.

I therefore support the motion.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: സർ, വളരെക്കാലമായി തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഏതാനും സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഉപ്പ് വിളയിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. സാധാരണ ഉപ്പ് സമുദ്രജലം കൊണ്ടുണ്ടാക്കി എടുത്തു വരുന്നുണ്ട്.

(At this stage the Deputy President took the Chair.)

താമരക്കുളം മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഭൂമിയുടെ അടിയിൽനിന്നും വരുന്ന ഉപ്പുറു വെള്ളം വറ്റിച്ചും എടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇപ്രകാരം കഴിച്ചെടുക്കുന്ന ഉപ്പുറുവെള്ളത്തിൽ സോഡിയം ക്ലോറൈഡും വേറെ പല ദ്രവകങ്ങളും ചേർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്രകാരം എടുക്കുന്ന ഉപ്പ് പാത്തിയിൽ നിന്നുമാണ് എടുക്കുന്നത്. സോഡിയം ക്ലോറൈഡും വേറെ ചില ദ്രവകങ്ങളും ചേർന്ന വെള്ളം നിറച്ച് പാത്തിയിൽ അടച്ചിടുകയും സൂര്യരശ്മി പതിപ്പിച്ചു നൂർ ഡിഗ്രി ഡെൻസിറ്റി വരുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ വെള്ളം തുറന്നു വിട്ട് ഉപ്പു എടുക്കുകയുമാണ് ചെയ്യുവുന്നത്. ഈ അ

[Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai.]

വസരത്തിൽ അത് ഉപ്പായിട്ടു വരുകയും ശിഷ്യമുള്ളത് കഴിവു വെള്ളമായിട്ട് പോകുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. സമീപകാലത്തു എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നും ഇതിനെ നല്ലതുപോലെ പരിശോധിച്ച് വിഷദ്രവ്യത്തെ എടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടുകൂടി ഇൻഡസ്ട്രിയൽ കെമിസ്റ്റ് മുതലായ ആളുകളുടെ നിർദ്ദേശമനുസരിച്ചു ഇപ്പോൾ സമുദ്രത്തിൽ നിന്നും നേരിട്ടു ജലമെടുത്ത് ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സംപ്രദായം നടപ്പിലാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. വടക്കൻ വിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഉപ്പ് പല കൈവഴികളിലായി കച്ചവടക്കാർ കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ട്. അളത്തിൽനിന്നും പണ്ടകശാലയിലേയ്ക്കും പണ്ടകശാലയിൽനിന്നും കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കും മാറി മാറി ഉപ്പ് കിട്ടുന്നു. മൊത്തക്കച്ചവടക്കാരും ചില്ലറ കച്ചവടക്കാരും മാറി മാറി കച്ചവടം ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ വിഷയത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം എക്സൈസ് കാരെ കുറപ്പെടുത്തുന്നത് ശരിയല്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ആ നഗ്നതയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു വ്യക്തമായി എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ നമ്മെ അറിയിക്കുകയും ഈ നാട്ടിലെ ഉപ്പു വ്യവസായത്തിന്റെ പ്രോത്സാഹനത്തിനുവേണ്ടി വിദേശത്തു നിന്നും ബാംബേ ഉപ്പ് ഇവിടെ വരുത്താൻ പാടില്ലാ എന്നുള്ള നയത്തെ വിശദീകരിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് അദ്ദേഹം സംസാരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും. ബാംബേ ഉപ്പ് ഇന്നാട്ടിലെ ഉപ്പിനെക്കാൾ നല്ലതാണെന്നും മനവത്തും മറ്റും അതാണ് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതെന്നും പറയുന്നു. ഇവിടെ ഉള്ള ഉപ്പിൽ ൨ ശതമാനം സോഡിയം ക്ലോറൈഡ് ബാംബേ ഉപ്പിനെക്കാൾ കുറവാണെങ്കിലും ഇവിടെത്തെ ഉപ്പു ഒട്ടും ദോഷകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. അതിനാൽ ഇതിലേയ്ക്കു വേണ്ട നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും അപ്പോഴപ്പോൾ കൊടുത്തു ഉപ്പു വ്യവസായം പ്രാദേശികമാക്കിത്തീർക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി. ഞാൻ മി: കരയാളരുടെ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : One question, Sir. May I put the question in English or in Malayalam?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You may put it in English.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : Is it the practice for the Salt Inspectors to inspect the brine before the licensees are allowed to remove the salt from the pans every day?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI : അങ്ങനെയുണ്ട്. ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ വന്നില്ലെങ്കിലും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമുള്ള ആളുകൾ കണ്ണാടിക്കുഴലുകളും മറ്റും വച്ച് അതു പരിശോധിക്കാറുണ്ട്.

MR. V. CHANDAMIAH (*Vo invited*): Sir, before retirement I was in charge of the factories as an Excise Officer and I have conducted a factory for six years after retirement and as such I can authoritatively submit.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, we cannot hear what the honourable member says.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please try to speak as loudly as you possibly can.

MR. V. CHANDAMIAH: I can authoritatively say that almost every morning when I was conducting the factory, these officers come and test the brine and see to the scraping of the salt when it is 30°. If the salt is scraped at more than 40° it is unfit for consumption and the salt scraped when the brine is at 40° the salt is thrown into the channel by the side. That is being done even to-day. This is all the mischief of the people dealing in Bombay salt. Our salt is the purest salt available in the country. Bombay salt contains mud and simply because the merchants want to sell the Bombay salt they say that our salt is inferior to the Bombay salt. This is a handicap to the merchants who want to sell our salt. No sand or mud or anything of the kind is added either in the factories by the licensees or by the merchants either during the transport of the salt or in the shops before selling. The salt is being directly taken in carts to the Trivandrum landing place and thence in boats to Quilon, Alleppey and other places. There is absolutely no truth in saying that sand or mud is added to the salt before sale. Therefore I oppose the charge that has been brought against the Excise Department. The salt is sold as pure as it is taken from the factory.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Is it the honourable member's case that our salt contains more sodium chloride than we can stomach?

MR. V. CHANDAMIAH: It contains no sand at all. Bombay salt contains more mud. Our salt is purer.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Sir, Mr. Karayalar pointed out one or two aspects of the question in connection with the improved manufacture of salt. First of all he referred to the supply of brine. I may assure Mr. Karayalar that the question is engaging the attention of Government very seriously and that even at present the Industrial Chemist is examining the question with a view to advise the Government as to the best and cheapest way of supplying the factories with sea brine. So, he need be under no apprehension on that point.

He next referred to the assignment of portion of the Manakudi lake, reducing its capacity to hold water during the flood season.

(At this stage President took the Chair.)

Mr. Karayalar is probably aware of the fact that the Government have finally decided that no more area out of the Manakudi lake will be assigned for salt manufacture. Perhaps he had in view one or two

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minor encroachments adjacent to his salt factory by one of the other licensees. Those encroachments were inspected by me personally and the loss resulting to the licensees by ordering their vacation was considered to be too much compared to the resultant advantage to the other licensee. So, the Government have ordered the registry of the 15 or 20 cents to the present occupant. This is not likely to affect the water-holding capacity of the Manakudi lake. I may also mention here that it is not the intention of Government to assign or permit the occupation of any more area out of the Manakudi Lake.

Then Mr. Karayalar referred to the possibility that during the flood season damages may be caused to the salt factories by narrowing the outlets. For the last ten years I may say that there has been no such accident and the one obstruction which was in existence sometime ago has been removed by repairing the canal for the outlet. As far as can be foreseen now, it may be positively asserted that no flood damage is likely to occur in the Thamarakulam Factories.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: What about the silting-up of the lake?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: At present there is not much silting up. If it goes on increasing, the question of removing the silt will be taken up.

MR. V. CHANDAMIAH: Is it not due to the washing of the river?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: Is not the lake silted up badly at present?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Not very badly. It may be silted up badly if the silt is allowed to accumulate.

As Mr. Krishna Pillai dwelt at length on the bad quality of the salt, I may inform him that the salt about which Mr. Mackar Pillai complained is the same as that which Mr. Krishna Pillai is eating every day without any protest whatever. He has never had any occasion to raise any complaint.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: On a point of personal explanation. I am one of the dumb millions in the State who have not raised any complaint about the salt that we eat. If I did not take any opportunity to mention it, it was because I was unwilling to go to the Excise Commissioner and make a complaint.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: So far as the quality of the salt is concerned I may inform the House as well as Mr. Krishna Pillai that the salt is never scraped at 40 or 45 degrees as supposed by him. According to the rules the salt is to be scraped when the brine is not above 30 degrees in strength. That aspect of the question has been repeatedly emphasised to all the factory officers and they have been even recently circularised never to allow the scraping when the brine is above 30 degrees.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: One question, Sir.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : I do not yield, Sir. I wish to finish what I have to say.

So far as adulteration is concerned, Mr. Krishna Pillai seems to have taken it that the licensees adulterate the salt. I never said that. My explanation when Mr. Mackar Pillai said that he found sand in salt was that the merchants might have adulterated the salt. It is the same salt that is supplied throughout the State, from Munambam to Cape Comorin. Sir, now the licensees are producing more salt than what is required for consumption within the State and the licensees are vying with each other in getting a sale for their salt. They will therefore never think of adulterating the salt that they produce.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : One question, Sir. If the ordinary rule is that the salt should be scraped when the brine is 30 degrees, why was it that the Commissioner renewed the circular relating to that recently?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : As I understood, Sir, the analysis of the salt showed that the percentage of sodium chloride contained in it was low. I may also add that the Superintendent of Public Health Laboratory has stated that though the salt contained a lower percentage of sodium chloride the salt was not bad for consumption.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR : Sir, in view of the explanation given by the Excise Commissioner, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 129 and 130.

The following motions were not moved :

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR :

129. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 83,405 for Salt Business by Re. 1.
(To discuss the policy behind the Salt Business of Government).

MR. K. KESAVAN :

130. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,48,770 for Salt by Re. 1.
(To request the Government to reduce the licensee's share of salt per sack and thus to relieve the burden of tax-payers a little.)

Motion 131.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL : I move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,700 for Assistant Excise Commissioner by Re. 1 to discuss the necessity for taking effective steps for preventing the officers of the Excise Department from assisting smuggling.

Sir, this question of smuggling is a vexed question and it has of late come into prominence on account of the troubles that the reserve police camping at the frontiers are causing. It is an undeniable fact, Sir, that much smuggling is going on at the frontiers and that the Government are losing a big sum on that account. There is no denying that fact. But are the people alone responsible for that? The attitude taken by the Government seems to show that the people alone are responsible for it. There are complaints that the reserve police

[Mr. Joseph Vithayathil]

camping at the frontiers are doing much havoc among the people. Of course, in answer to my question the Chief Secretary said that the complaints received are mostly false and that the Government do not propose to take any action in the matter. The Government of course were relying entirely on the report of the Commissioner of Police but we the representatives of the people from those parts are positive that much havoc is being done by the reserve police and we know as a matter of fact that many of the victims had nothing to do with smuggling. In fact, Sir, this smuggling is a partnership affair, that is, the whole thing is being managed jointly, and only one section of the partnership is being dealt with by the Government. If the Government are going to put down smuggling by the use of the reserve police, my prayer is that the reserve police should exercise jurisdiction over the other section also i. e., they should extend their operations among the officers of the department who are colluding with these smugglers. That is one way of putting a stop to it. But that is not the proper way and we are opposed to it.

PRESIDENT : But that has been stated as the object of the motion.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL : According to us the method is not to ask the Reserve Police to take hold of all the people there and deal with them severely. I do not say that they should similarly deal with the Excise people who assist smuggling. But as a matter of fact if Government propose to put a stop to smuggling by this method, my prayer is that they should deal with the Excise Officers also in this manner.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI : May I know from the member whether there was any representation to the Commissioner or the Government that the Excise Officers are conniving at smuggling?

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL : That is well known to the department and to the Government. There is no question about it. Every body knows that the Excise people are in a way privy to smuggling. The question is what is the way to find out the culprits and deal with them.

Another method of dealing with the matter is to appoint a vigilance committee in each of these taluks. Respectable people, officials and non-officials, may be nominated to the Committee. When the Excise Commissioner goes about inspecting the stations he may take these people into confidence and ask their opinion about the conduct of the Excise subordinates.

So far as the smuggling of copra and other produce of the cocoanut tree is concerned, it appears to me that the most effective way of putting a stop to that smuggling is to remove the export duty on these articles. What the Government are getting by way of export duty on these articles may be realised by levying an additional tax on the cocoanut plantations. We people in North Travancore are put to great difficulty on account of this duty. Not only have we to pay the duty but the Excise people also trouble us at every turn. It is difficult for

the merchants to carry on their trade. They are very much inconvenienced. Therefore they go to Cochin and carry on their trade. We have consulted the people and they are of opinion that a tax may be imposed on the cocoanut tree and the duty may be abolished. That is the most effective way of putting a stop to smuggling with regard to copra.

With regard to tobacco, what is being done in Cochin might be followed here also. Government can lease out the right. That is the most effective way of putting an end to smuggling of tobacco. At present great inconvenience and hardship is caused to the people on account of the fact that the lower grade men in the department are colluding with the people in smuggling. I pray that effective steps be taken to put a stop to this conduct on the part of the officers of the Excise Department.

MR. M. K. MACKAR PILLAI: സർ. വ്യാജക്കച്ചവടത്തിൽ എക്സൈസ് കാരെ കുറും പറഞ്ഞിട്ട് ഒരു കാര്യവുമില്ല. വ്യാജക്കച്ചവടക്കാരെയും കുറും പറഞ്ഞിട്ട് ഒരു കാര്യവുമില്ല. കൊച്ചിയിൽനിന്നും ഇവിടേക്ക് വ്യാജമായിട്ട് കടത്തുന്നത് അധികവും പുകയിലയാണെന്നാണ് പറഞ്ഞു വരുന്നത്. കൊച്ചിയിലും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും ഉള്ള പുകയിലയുടെ വില വ്യത്യാസം കൊണ്ടാണ് വ്യാജക്കച്ചവടക്കാർ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നത്. പത്തോ പതിനൊന്നോ രൂപാ ശമ്പളമുള്ള എക്സൈസ് പൂൺസീന് അറയുടെ ശമ്പളംകൊണ്ട് ചിലവ് കഴിയുകയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് അവർ ഇപ്പോൾ ഏതെങ്കിലും തട്ടത്തു നിറുത്തണമെന്ന് എത്ര തന്നെ കർശനമായി ശാസിച്ചാലും നൽകുകയില്ല. ഈ കച്ചവടംകൊണ്ട് അവർക്ക് ലാഭമുണ്ട്. അല്ലാതെ മനുഷ്യവും എക്സൈസ്കാർ ഇത് ചെയ്യുന്നതല്ല. ഒന്നാമതു കൊച്ചിയിലേയും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേയും പുകയിലയുടെ വില ഒരു തരത്തിലാക്കുന്നതിന് എന്തെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യണം. അല്ലാതെ എക്സൈസ്കാരെ കുറും പറഞ്ഞാലും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ റിസർവ് പോലീസ്കാർ വന്നു നാട്ടുകാരെ തല്ലിയാലും ക്ഷമിക്കുകയില്ല. ഇനി ഉച്ചിന്റെ കാര്യമാണ്. അതു മനുഷ്യക്ക് ഭക്ഷണത്തിന് അത്യാവശ്യമുള്ള ഒരു കാര്യമാണ്. തല പേടിക്കും വയറ് പേടിക്കുകയില്ല. അതു എത്ര എക്സൈസ്കാർ ശ്രമിച്ചാലും നല്ല ഉപ്പ് മുനമ്പത്തുനിന്നും ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് കിട്ടിയില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ ഉപ്പ് മോഷ്ടിക്കും. സ്വദേശീയവസായത്തെ പോഷിപ്പിക്കാനാണ് മണ്ണുപ്പു ഞങ്ങളെ തിരറിക്കണുത്തെന്നു എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ പറയുന്നതു കേട്ടു. അതേ അവസരത്തിൽ തന്നെ ബാംബേ ഉപ്പ് നല്ലതാണെന്നും പറഞ്ഞതു കേട്ടു. ഞങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിന് മതിയാകുന്നിടത്തോളമുള്ള ഉപ്പ് മുനമ്പത്തു സപ്ലൈ ചെയ്യാൻ വ്യാജമായുള്ള ഉപ്പുവ്യാപാരം അവിടെ അധികം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല. ചില

[Mr. M. K. Mackar Pillai.]

കുറുപ്പു ഗവണ്മെൻറു വിൽക്കുമ്പോൾ രാജാക്കന്മാർക്കു മണ്ണുപ്പം, ഒരു ചാക്കു ബാഗ്ബേ ഉപ്പുമാണ് കൊടുക്കുന്നത്. ബാഗ്ബേ ഉപ്പ് അവിടെ കൂടുതൽ ചെലവാകുന്നു. അതിനാണു കൂടുതൽ ആവശ്യക്കാരുള്ളത്. എന്തോ ചില ഗുണം ബാഗ്ബേ ഉപ്പിനുണ്ടു. കച്ചവടക്കാരായും ജനങ്ങളുടെയും ആവശ്യംപോലെ ഉപ്പു കൊടുത്താൽ ഈ വ്യാജവ്യാപാരം ഉണ്ടാവുകയില്ല. കച്ചവടക്കാരാണ് ഉപ്പിൽ മണ്ണു ചേർക്കുന്നതു എന്നു പറയുന്നതു ശുദ്ധമേ കളവാണു. അങ്ങനെയൊന്നെങ്കിൽ എന്തുകൊണ്ടു ബാഗ്ബേ ഉപ്പിൽ മണ്ണു ചേർക്കുന്നില്ല. ബാഗ്ബേ ഉപ്പിനു മറ്റേതിനെക്കാൾ പുഷ്ടിയും ഈടും കൂടുതലുള്ളതു കൊണ്ടു അതിൽ കുറച്ചു മണ്ണു ചേർത്താൽ തന്നെയും ആളുകൾ അറിയുകയില്ല. എന്നിട്ടും അതു ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല. കൂടുതൽ ലാഭമുണ്ടാകുവാൻ വേണ്ടി അളക്കാരാണു ഈ വക തകരാറുകളെല്ലാം വരുത്തുന്നതു. ഞാൻ ഉപദേശപത്തെ അനുക്രമിക്കുന്നു.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: സർ, തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ അതുത്തി പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലുള്ള സൂഗ്ലിഗ് നിറുത്തുന്നതിനായി എക്സൈസ് കോർട്ടിന്റെ ശുപാർശയനുസരിച്ചു അവിടേക്കു ഏതാനും റിസർവ്വു പോലീസുകാരെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു. സൂഗ്ലിഗ്കാരെ പിടിക്കുന്നതിനോ അവരെ ഏതെങ്കിലും വിധത്തിൽ വിഷമിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനോ ആനാട്ടുകാർക്കു ഒരു മനസ്സുകേടും ഇല്ല. നിരപരാധികളും മറ്റാരുമാകുമായി ജീവിക്കുന്നവരെ റിസർവ്വുകാർ വഴിനിർത്തി ഇട്ടു തല്ലുന്ന സംഭവം ഒന്നു നിർത്തണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നുള്ളു. ഈ തരം വണ്ടി തന്നെ കണ്ടിട്ടില്ലാത്ത വടക്കൻ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലുള്ള ആളുകൾ റിസർവ്വുകാർ കയറിക്കൊണ്ടു വണ്ടികളെ അടുത്തു കൂടും. വണ്ടി നിർത്തി അവരെല്ലാം ഇവർ പിടികൂടി അടിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും. രാമമംഗലത്തുനിന്നും കുറിഞ്ഞി വഴി വന്നു തിരുവാണിയൂർ ചന്തയിൽ കൂടി വെട്ടിക്കൽവരെ എത്തിയ ഒരു റിസർവ്വു സംഘം കണ്ണിൽ കണ്ടവരെക്കൊക്കെ തല്ലി. ഏകദേശം എട്ടുമൈൽ ദൂരം വരും ഈ പറഞ്ഞ സ്ഥലം. ആ വണ്ടി തിരുവാണിയൂർ ചന്തയിൽ വന്നു നിന്നു. അവിടെയുള്ള വീടുകളിൽ കയറി സ്ത്രീകളെ പോലും അവരുടെ വീടുകളിൽനിന്നു പിടിച്ചു പറത്തു കൊണ്ടുവന്നു തല്ലുന്നതിന്നു ഇക്കൂട്ടർ മടിച്ചില്ല. അവിടെ തല്ലുകൊണ്ടുവരിൽ ഒരാളാണ് ഞാൻ മുഖേന പറഞ്ഞ ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടിൽപോയി മടങ്ങി വന്നയാൾ. ഇവരുടെ അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റി പരാതിപ്പെട്ടതിൽ അവ അടിസ്ഥാനമാ

ഫിത്തയ്ക്കലാണെന്നു പോലീസുകമ്മീഷണർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായി ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി പറയുന്നതു കേട്ടു. ആ പോലീസു കമ്മീഷണർ സ്ഥലത്തുവന്നു അന്വേഷിക്കുകയും ഈ വക അഴിമതികളെല്ലാം കണ്ടു ബോധ്യപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. അദ്ദേഹം വന്ന കാറിന്റെ ശബ്ദം കേട്ടു കൊണ്ടാണു ഒരു ഡാക്ടറുടെ അടുക്കൽ, “യജമാനനേ! പോലീസുകാരെക്കൊണ്ടു എന്നെ തല്ലിക്കരുതേ!” എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു തല്ലുകൊണ്ടു പരുക്കു പററി ചികിത്സയിൽ കിടന്ന ഒരു രോഗി ആ ഡാക്ടറെ കെട്ടിപ്പിടിച്ചത്. ഈ വക അഴിമതികളോന്നും മേലാൽ ഉണ്ടാവുകയില്ല എന്നു ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ഉറപ്പു തന്നുകൊണ്ടാണു പോലീസു കമ്മീഷണർ അവിടെ നിന്നും മടങ്ങിയതു. ഞങ്ങൾ അതു കേട്ടു തൃപ്തിപ്പെട്ടു എങ്കിലും അഴിമതികൾക്കു ഇപ്പോഴും ഒരു കുറവും ഇല്ല. സ്റ്റാറ്റിംഗു എന്ന പേരിൽ, എക്സൈസുകാർക്കു ആരോടെല്ലാം വിരോധമുണ്ടോ അവരോടു പ്രതികാരം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരുയുധമായി റിസർവുകാരെ അവർ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല. അതിനാൽ ഈ പോലീസുകാരുടെ അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിച്ചു റിപ്പോർട്ടു ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഒരു ജുഡീഷ്യൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്നും കുററുകാരെ കണ്ടു പിടിച്ചു ശിക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നും പല തരത്തിൽ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടും യാതൊരു നിവൃത്തിയും ഇതുവരെ ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടില്ല. വ്യാജവ്യാപാരം തടയാൻ ഒരു ഇല്ലിക്കോട്ടയാണ് അവിടെയുള്ളതു. ഇല്ലികൾ പുത്തു പോയതു കൊണ്ടു അതിനുള്ളിൽ കിടന്ന കോട്ടയുടെ സ്വഭാവം നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടു പോയിരിക്കുന്നു കൊത്തുത്തത്തിന്റെ കാര്യം ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ സൗകര്യമുള്ളപ്പോൾ എല്ലാം, സ്റ്റാറ്റിംഗു നടക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. സ്റ്റാറ്റിംഗു നടക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. പക്ഷെ അതുത്തി പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ സഹകരണം കൂടാതെ അതു തടയാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. റിസർവു പോലീസുകാരെ മുഴുവൻ കൊണ്ടുചെന്നു അവിടെ നിർത്തിയാലും മുന്നോ നാലോ മാസം ഉൾജിതമായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചു എന്നു വരാമെന്നുള്ളതു. അതു കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ എക്സൈസുകാർ തന്നെ വേണം ഈ ജോലി നിർവഹിക്കുവാൻ. പുകയില വ്യാജവ്യാപാരം നടക്കുന്നതു എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലുള്ള താഴ്ന്ന ജീവനക്കാരുടെ സഹായത്തോടുകൂടിയാണെന്നുള്ളതിനു തക്കമില്ല. ഉത്തരവാദിത്വബോധമുള്ള ഉയർന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ അയയ്ക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. അതുത്തി പ്രദേശത്തുള്ള ജനങ്ങളെല്ലാ മിക്കവാറും ഈ വ്യാജവ്യാപാരം ചെയ്യുന്നതു. ദുരദേശങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും വരുന്നവർ വ്യാജപ്പുകയില

[Mr. K. P. Kochukora Tharakan].

അതൃത്തിയിൽ കൂടി കടത്തി കിട്ടക്കോട്ടു കൊണ്ടു പോകുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു. അതൃത്തിപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഉള്ളവർക്ക് ഇതിൽ യാതൊരു കാര്യവുമില്ല. കുറുകാരായിട്ടുള്ളവരെ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു ശരിയായി ശിക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതു തന്നെയാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ അക്രമങ്ങളേയും അനീതികളേയും പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനുകൂടി ഗവണ്മെൻറ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. സൂഗ്രിംഗു തടയുവാൻ പ്രാമാണ്യമുള്ള അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥ അംഗങ്ങളടങ്ങിയ ഒരു കമ്മറ്റിയെ കൂടി നിയമിച്ചു് അന്വേഷണം നടത്തി റിപ്പോർട്ടു വരുത്തുന്നതു പ്രയോജനകരമായിരിക്കും.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR : Sir, I rise to make a few observations in support of the motion. The question of smuggling of tobacco has received very prominent attention both at the hands of Government and at the hands of the members of the House. Sir, it has been estimated that Government suffer loss of revenue to the extent of Rs. 10 to 20 lakhs on account of the smuggling of tobacco which is going on in the northern frontiers of the State.

Government have legitimately thought it right to allot a sum of Rs. 112,000 for the purpose of taking steps to combat this evil, and the operations are to be entrusted to the hands of a band of Excise Inspectors assisted by a band of Police force. The amount involved is very considerable. I ask whether the campaign can be safely entrusted to the hands of Excise Inspectors who draw a salary of Rs. 50 to 100. I want to suggest, Sir, that it is a very serious matter involving lakhs, which ought to be left in the hands of a high paid officer so that this problem can be very effectively tackled. Otherwise, Sir, the whole allotment of a lakh and twelve thousand may be frittered away and no tangible results after all may accrue from the drive that is to be launched by the Government against smuggling.

Another suggestion that I have to make in this connection is this. This smuggling that is going on is evidently due to the great disparity in the rates of duty on tobacco prevalent in Travancore and in Cochin. The disparity sets something like a gravitational flow to Travancore from the adjoining Cochin territory where the rate of duty is much lower than in Travancore. That seems to be the root cause of the trouble, and the problem has to be tackled at its source. I want to suggest that Government may explore the possibilities of tackling this problem at the root and find out whether it is not possible for our Government to negotiate with the Government of India to see that the State of Cochin adopts a rate of duty equivalent to ours so that this evil may be prevented effectively.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : The motion of Mr. Joseph Vithayathil is to prevent the officers of the Excise Department from assisting smuggling. That pre-supposes that the officers of the Department are there to assist smuggling. I do not contend that no officer of the Excise

Department has ever connived at smuggling. Such instances are rare. If such instances are brought to light, enquiries are conducted and the guilty punished. But Mr. Joseph Vithayathil has grossly exaggerated the matter. It is really too much for him to suggest that the officers of the Excise Department are assisting smuggling and that preventive measures should be adopted to stop it. According to the motion of Mr. Joseph, the people want to smuggle and the officers help them. It may be that here and there, a person of weak mind yields to strong temptation. Mr. Makkaru Pillai said that peans getting 10 or 11 Rs do sometime fall. I can understand that. But such instances are rare. When detected, the delinquents are severely dealt with. If the men should be completely free from this weakness, they should have a higher level of morality. For that, the standard of morality of the general public in the country should rise. The public services are filled by men of our country and it is no wonder that they are not above the general level in point of morality.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : Was it to teach morality among people that the reserve police were sent to the frontier?

PRESIDENT : The member has not yielded his place.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : All that the department could do is, to watch the conduct of the subordinate officers. The superior officers are there to supervise the work and watch the conduct of the subordinates. Whenever instances of corruption or misconduct are brought to light, serious action is taken of the same.

(Mr. K. P. Kochukora Tharakan stood up to ask a question.)

PRESIDENT . Honourable members, if they have got any tremendous urge to put questions, will please wait until the official member has finished.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Mr. Vithayathil suggested the appointment of a vigilance committee composed of non-officials. Sir, I heartily welcome such an offer of co-operation from the people living in frontier areas to put down smuggling. In fact, I have been trying to enlist the sympathy of the inhabitants of the frontier. But as far as my experience goes, I am sorry to say that no sign of co-operation has been forthcoming.

PRESIDENT : But it is forthcoming now.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Yes, Sir. I welcome the suggestion of Mr. Vithayathil and request him to help me by organising a vigilance committee in his own place. I speak from my own experience that the officers of my department are engaged in very difficult tasks under very trying circumstances. They get very little support from the people of the locality. When they go on night patrol they could not get any help from the people of the neighbourhood. That has been the bitter experience of my officers. The recent incidents at Vettithara near Pivavom show how my officers receive co-operation from the people of the locality.

[Mr C. O. Madhavan.]

One remedy suggested for putting an end to smuggling is the abolition of the export duty altogether. Of course, if that is done, there will be no more smuggling. That may be a very effective remedy. But what shall we do for the revenue that is realised on account of export duty. As Mr. Kunjitomman pointed out, we will be losing revenue to the extent of Rs. 20 lakhs every year. Suppose this duty is abolished, how else can we make up that revenue. That is a very serious matter for consideration.

Mr. Tharakan referred to the activities of the reserve police employed in connection with the prevention of smuggling. A batch of Reserve Police has been working in the frontier in co-operation with the Excise staff from Kumbham last. Rightly or wrongly, they have come in for a good deal of adverse criticism. Assault on innocent men has been alleged. The matter was enquired into and it was found that the complaints were all unfounded. Of course, by the stationing of reserve police in the frontier, the Excise Department has been preventing smuggling and the result of their work has reflected in an appreciable rise in tobacco revenue. It shows an increase in revenue of about Rs. 15,000 every month. The reserve police are doing work like any other police in other places. I do not find any reason why there should be such a loud complaint against the conduct of the reserve police engaged in the frontier. It is not in Travancore alone that police have been deputed for work along with excise men for protecting excise revenue. In the Pondicherry frontier, there was a good deal of smuggling, and military and not only police were deputed to check smuggling.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member might have read two days ago that the Government of India have imposed a customs cordon extending over 2000 miles along the external frontier of Khurdistan to prevent the smuggling and the consequent loss in revenue that is taking place between Persia and Afghanistan on the one side and India on the other.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes, Sir. Such intensive work has yielded substantial increase in revenue in Madras Customs. Under tobacco revenue we are losing very heavily. I appeal to the house to help the Government and the department by making it possible for them to spend the necessary amount for preventing smuggling and recovering the revenue which is being lost from year to year.

Then Sir, I come to certain suggestions made by Mr. Karayalar. It seems to me that they could not be adopted with profit by the department. He says that there is great disparity in the price of tobacco between Travancore and Cochin. So far as Travancore is concerned, in spite of smuggling, we get a revenue of Rs 22 to Rs 23 lakhs under tobacco. Though Cochin which has a population of less than one-fourth is consuming more tobacco than Travancore, its tobacco revenue is only less than one-seventh of that of Travancore.

We cannot adopt the system advocated by Mr. Karayalar. I do not think it is worthwhile to make any effort to come to an understanding with Cochin in this connection.

Mr. Karayalar also suggested that anti-smuggling campaign should be left in the hands of high paid officers. Already there are three Assistant Excise Commissioners at Arukutty, Piravom and Parur, who are responsible for watching the work of subordinate officers. Everything possible is being done to check smuggling. I may assure Mr. Vithayathil that he can get any amount of help from the officers of the Excise Department in the matter of putting down smuggling. If he brings to my notice the case of an officer who has assisted smuggling the officer concerned will be dealt with severely, even to the extent of dismissal. On this assurance I hope my friend would see his way to withdraw the motion.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: അതൃതിപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ റിസർവ് പോലീസുകാർ അകുലിച്ചു എന്നു പറയുന്നസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കമ്മീഷണർപോയി അന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I have enquired into the matter.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: May I know from the member whether the Government have received any representation from any section of the public that the reserve police should not be withdrawn from the frontiers?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes; there were many such representations.

MR. V. CHANDAMIAH: May I know from the member, where the difficulty lies? Is it in the land frontier or water frontier?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: In both places, but intensively in the land frontier.

MR. V. CHANDAMIAH: Is there no protection at Illikottah? Is it in existence now?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It has disappeared.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: കള്ളച്ചെത്തും കള്ളക്കച്ചവടവും നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നു അന്വേഷിച്ചു കേസെടുക്കുവാൻ അയക്കുന്ന സ്പെഷ്യൽപാർട്ടി പോയാൽ കേസ് കിട്ടാതെ ഇരിക്കുകയല്ലേ പതിവ്?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Not for this purpose, Sir.

The motion was by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 132.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 4,502 for clerks (Temporary) be reduced by Rs. 1.

Sir, my object in moving this motion is to bring to the attention of the Government the huge arrears that have accumulated in the collection of the Abkari Revenue and that those allotments happen to be provided for not because there is any absolute necessity for such a provision but because the Excise Commissioner seems to have complained

[Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai.]

that arrears have accumulated and that such accumulation is in spite of his efforts. At page 52 of the budget I find the statement.

"For an additional staff of one clerk on Rs. 75-100 and 4 (25-3-40) for attending to recovery of arrears of Abkari revenue."

The falling into arrears of abkari revenue appears to have been the order of the day during the last few years and huge arrears that have now accumulated comes up to over 9 lakhs of rupees. In the Administration Report of the Department, details are given which if carefully read would convince every honourable member of this House how irresponsibly this branch of the work was being attended to.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Can the inefficiency of the whole Department be discussed by a cut under establishment?

PRESIDENT: The establishment that the honourable member is referring to is the establishment that is being brought into existence for collecting arrears. That is why it has become necessary.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: Then it should be a cut for the whole amount.

PRESIDENT: Not necessarily.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, an explanation is not necessary. But I may however submit that these five clerks have been appointed for the purpose of collecting arrears of revenue.

PRESIDENT: The point raised by Mr. Karayalar is, to a certain extent, legitimate, namely, whereas the collection of Abkari can be discussed, inefficiency of the Department cannot be discussed. But I am not going to rule you out of order at this stage.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: I submit, Sir, that we may leave out of account the irresponsibility of the management. I may say that the appointment of these clerks has been necessitated by laxity on the part of the clerks in the Department during the last six years from 1105 to 1110. The administration report, page 20 gives a gruesome detail of this accumulation. From Rs. 39,000 we have come to Rs. 9 lakhs. So far as I have been able to see it is not possible to understand how these clerks are going to work down the arrears. The Excise Commissioner complains that these arrears have accumulated because of the economic depression. The Government, in their observation, point out that they are not prepared to accept this explanation offered by the Excise Commissioner. On one point both the Government and the Excise Commissioner agree and that is that the Excise Commissioner wants to throw the blame on the Land Revenue Department and the Government have issued stringent orders to both the departments to work in earnestness for working out the arrears. I think the appointment of these 5 clerks is not in any way going to help the department a great deal in the matter of realising the arrears. There are clerks in charge

of this section who have been keeping these files in heaps in their tables or almirahs. There are experienced clerks dealing with the subject for the last five years. I do not understand what 5 more clerks will be able to do in this respect. Any way, Sir, either the clerks in charge of the Section have not been properly attending to their duties or there is something fundamentally wrong in the method, manner or system of collecting these arrears.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Sir, I concede that the arrears under Abkari revenue stood at Rs. 39,000 odd at the end of 1105 and that the end of 1111 it stands at over Rs. 9 lakhs. But before throwing any blame on any department or individual officer for the above accumulation, I would draw the attention of the House to the reason why the arrears mounted up so high. Economic depression started in Travancore and elsewhere in 1105. Abkari auctions in North Travancore commenced before the commencement of the depression, when pepper was selling at Rs. 600 per candi and when coconut was being sold at Rs. 70 or 60 per 1000. The rentals of both toddy shops and arrack shops in North Travancore doubled and in some cases trebled. But before the year was out, prices began to fall very heavily. The contractors who had offered high rentals for shops refused to complete the security and start the business at the commencement of 1106. The result was resale of the shops in all such cases. A shop which was sold for Rs. 5000 at first could not fetch more than say a thousand rupees. The loss resulting from the resale of the shops during the biennial contract for 1106 and 1107 alone amounted to over at 7,32,000. Out of Rs. 9 lakhs, and odd now pending as arrears, Rs. 7 lakhs and odd, i. e., that is all but about 2 lakhs, are the arrears which accrued during that one contract period, 1106 and 1107. I do not think any human agency can be held responsible for the arrears due to unforeseen circumstances. In subsequent years the arrears have been comparatively small. But the large sum pending collection as old arrears at present is composed mainly of the loss by resale during the one contract year 1106-1107 alone. That is the reason why arrears began to accumulate from 1106 onwards.

Coming to the steps taken for the collection of arrears, I may inform the House that once the revenue has fallen into the category of old arrears the procedure is to take action under the Revenue Recovery Regulation. For that, we seek the help of the Land Revenue Department. One difficulty in the way is that Government cannot purchase, in auction any land in case it is charged with prior encumbrances. Suppose the property is worth Rs. 10,000 and there is an encumbrance of only 10 Rs. Even then the Government cannot purchase the land. If no bidder is forthcoming Government is powerless. That is the reason why no great progress could be made in the recovery of old arrears. However, we are now resorting to another method in such cases. There is a provision in the regulation by which the Government can assume possession of the property and take its yield. Under that arrangement we are now getting some money. The defaulters are sometimes coming forward to pay money in instalments.

[Mr. C. O. Madhavan.]

The number of persons against whom action is being taken is about 2000. These 2000 persons are scattered in all the taluks of the State. To take prompt action in all such cases, there must be an adequate staff in my office. There are only 2 clerks for this work at present. They were engaged for that work when the arrears stood at Rs. 39,000, six years ago. Now they are absolutely unable to cope with the work and so I propose the entertainment of these additional hands for the work. Correspondence has to be carried on not only with the Tahsildars and other officers in the Land Revenue Department but also with the officers of my department. Government have decided office for all that these arrears should either be collected or they should be written off as irrecoverable. So the attempt now is to collect all amounts that are possible of collection and in the alternative to come to a decision that the amount is irrecoverable. For that, the work is to be intensified and in the course of the next year or at the most at the end of 1114 the expectation of the Government is to collect all sums that can be collected, and to write off the balance. It is for that purpose that the additional staff is proposed. I may also inform the House that as a result of the stringent orders issued by the Government there are signs of increased activity on the part of the Land Revenue Department. I expect very good results next year. The expenditure for the additional staff may be sanctioned. I hope the honourable member will not press his motion.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : Is it a fact that out of the defaulters for the 1106 and 1107 contract, some were given shops for 1108 and 1109 contract or for subsequent contracts?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : It has happened in some cases. The auctions commence in the month of Meenam. The licensees have time till the end of the year to pay off the current dues. Those who have not paid all their dues by Meenom are therefore not excluded from participation in the auction. After taking up shops for the coming contract, it may happen that some of them make default for the current contract. This is a situation which cannot be avoided.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI : Does the member consider it feasible to change the rules with regard to the putting up of auction and purchase of lands for Abkari arrears under the Revenue Recovery Regulation? We do not purchase lands which have got prior encumbrances, because it will involve unnecessary legal proceedings against Government.

MR. V. CHANDAMIAH : Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. In doing so, I may make a few observations. In the year 1073, the Abkari Department was first organised. The collection from the shops was then looked after and done by the Revenue people. That system is not in vogue now. Therefore heavy arrears of abkari revenue accrue every year. Whenever a shopkeeper fails to pay the kist in time, his deposit was confiscated and the shop was resold in auction by the Revenue authorities and the arrears realised by them. If that system is adopted now, I

think, much of the arrears can be reduced. Now the Excise Department is saddled with the work of collection kist. Therefore, the detection and preventive work for which the Department exists suffer. Every morning the work of the Excise man is to go to the house of the shopkeeper, for the collection of kist, who finds it impossible to pay as he is heavily indebted. Under the circumstances my submission is that the collection work should be handed over to the Revenue Department.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : I beg leave to withdraw my motion eventhough the explanation given by the Government member is not satisfactory. The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 133

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 4,502 for clerks (temporary) be reduced by Re. 1 for the purpose of discussing the unsatisfactory nature of the collection of the trade statistics.

Sir, these clerks were sanctioned by this House nearly three years ago. The sanction was made on the distinct understanding that the work of collecting and publishing statistics will be properly maintained. Sir, it is absolutely necessary to maintain the statistics properly for reference and also for the information of the Excise Commissioner in order that from time to time he himself and the Government might adopt ways and means for the purpose of improving the trade and commerce of this country. We hoped that statistics were being collected and maintained properly and regularly. But we find from the statistics that has been put into our hands that the information contained therein is either unsatisfactory or inaccurate. Even now the department does not appear to have attempted any workable method with regard to the collection of statistics. The other day during the discussion on the budget I pointed out that the Financial Secretary has not mentioned anything about this in his speech at the presentation of the budget : how our trade stood at the time when the budget was presented. We have to wait for one year to get the statistics of the previous year. I remember that it was only a couple of months since the statistics of 1111 was put into our hands. If the clerks, or rather the department were properly looking after this work there would have been no difficulty in putting in the hands of the honourable members of this House the proper statistics of our present position in the matter of trade and commerce. It is absolutely necessary for the purpose of discussing a particular question or adopting a particular policy to know the present situation of the State's commerce and trade. It is necessary for the public also to know how matters stand with regard to commerce and trade. Therefore, I would submit that in addition to the preparation of statistics they must be sent to Government from time to time for being verified and published and to see the public may avail themselves of the use of it. There is no use in publishing statistics as they are being done at present.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Regarding this matter of statistics I have only to say that an officer of the department has been deputed for training in the collection and compilation of statistics. Government are aware of the fact that the collection of statistics is not as satisfactorily done as it ought to be. When the officer who has gone for training returned he will be entrusted with the work of collection and compilation of statistics. Now the officer is undergoing training in Bombay. From there he will go to Calcutta and then he will attend the office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics to get acquainted himself with the system of work there. Government wanted to publish the statistics every month; but it was decided, later on, that this may begin after the return of this officer.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, one question. Then may I ask whether it is not sufficient to entertain these clerks after the expert comes?

PRESIDENT: The honourable member must understand that a certain amount of spade work is necessary.

The motion was by leave, withdrawn.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH: സർ, എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണറാഫീസിൽ ക്ലാർക്കുമാർ മുതലായവക്കായി നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഹെന്റിങ്ങ് റൂപയിൽനിന്നും ഒരു രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണറാഫീസിൽ അവശസമുദായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട കൃസ്ത്യ പ്രാനികളിലും ഹിന്ദുക്കളിലും നിന്നു പരീക്ഷാരോഗ്യതയുള്ളവരിൽ ആരെയുംതന്നെ ക്ലാർക്കുമാരായി നിയമിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്നുള്ള പരമാർത്ഥം ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ അറിയിക്കുന്നതിനാണ്. ഈ നാട്ടിൽ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെ പരിപൂർണ്ണപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുവരുന്ന വലിയ ഒരു ജനവിഭാഗം അവശസമുദായക്കാരാണ്. ഏതു കള്ളപ്പാപ്പിനും അത്പം ഓരെയായിട്ട് തയ്യാറാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള ചെറുപ്പരയിൽ നോക്കിയാൽ അതുകാണാം. അവശസമുദായക്കാർക്ക് ഇങ്ങനെ കുടിക്കുന്നതിനു നിർമ്മിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പുരയാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ പ്രത്യേകമായി പുരകെട്ടി അവർക്കു കള്ളക്കൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു വഴിയെ പോകുന്നവർക്കുപോലും അതു കാണാമെന്നുള്ളതിനാൽ അവശസമുദായത്തിലുള്ളവർ വെറും കള്ളുകുടിയന്മാരാണെന്നുള്ള ഒരു ബോധം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ പരക്കെയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഏതു പ്രസ്ഥാനവേദിയിൽ പോയാലും അവശസമുദായക്കാരെ പരിഷ്കരിക്കുന്നതിനുകൊടുക്കുന്ന ഉപദേശത്തിൽ ഒന്നാമതായി പറയുന്നത് അവരുടെ കള്ളുകുടി മാറ്റണമെന്നാണ്. കള്ളുകുടി മാറ്റുന്നതിനു സഹായിക്കുകയും മാത്രം ക കാണിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ട കൃസ്ത്യ പ്രാനികളും ഹിന്ദുക്കളും അക

തുകയറിയിരുന്നു കടിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അങ്ങനെയൊരു പരാതി അവ
 രെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞുകേൾക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിനെ പ
 റിപ്രഷിപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന സമുദായത്തിൽ പരീക്ഷായോഗ്യതയു
 ള്ളവർ ഉള്ളസ്ഥിതിക്ക് ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിന്റെ കേന്ദ്രസ്ഥാനത്തു്
 അവരെക്കൂടി നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെയും ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റു
 മേധാവിയുടെയും ചുമതലയാണെന്നുള്ളതു തർക്കമറ്റ ഒരു സംഗതിയാ
 ണ്. പരീക്ഷായോഗ്യതയുള്ളവരില്ലായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ പരാതിക്കിടയി
 ലായിരുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ പ്രത്യേക ഓക്കിണ്ണവും ഫീസ് സജ്ജ
 ന്യവുമാകൊണ്ടു പഠിച്ചു സ്കൂൾഫൈനലും ബി. എ. യും പാസ്സായവർ
 ക്കെ വിരൽകൊണ്ടു് എണ്ണത്തക്കവിധത്തിലേകിലും ഈ അവശസമുദായ
 ത്തിൽ ഇന്നുണ്ടു്. ഉദ്യോഗം ചേരണം ഉദ്യോഗവേണം എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു
 ഇന്നത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ പടികാത്തുകിടക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഉദ്യോഗം
 കിട്ടാൻ യാതൊരുമാറ്റവുമില്ല അതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവണ്മെന്റു പ്രത്യേകം
 ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചു എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ആഫീസിൽ അവശസമുദായ
 ത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട പരീക്ഷായോഗ്യതയുള്ളവർക്കു പ്രത്യേകമായി ഉദ്യോഗം നൽ
 കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള പ്രോത്സാഹനം
 നൽകുന്നതിനു പ്രതിബന്ധമായി ഇരിക്കുന്ന പബ്ലിക് സർവീസ് റിക്രൂ
 ട്മെന്റു രൂളിനെ അവഗണിച്ചെങ്കിലും രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ മുതലെടുപ്പു
 വർദ്ധിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അവശസമുദായക്കാരെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കേ
 ണ്ടതാണ്. എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിൽ കൂടുതലായി ഏതാനും ഇൻ
 സ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെ നിയമിക്കാൻപോകുന്നതായി അറിയുന്നു. ഞാൻ ഉൾ
 പ്പെട്ട സമുദായത്തിൽ പരീക്ഷായോഗ്യതയുള്ളവർ അതായതു ബി. എ.
 സ്കൂൾഫൈനൽ എന്നീ പരീക്ഷകൾ പാസ്സായിട്ടുള്ളവരുണ്ടു്. ഇൻസ്പെ
 ക്ടറന്മാരുടെ നിയമനമുണ്ടാകുമ്പോൾ അവശസമുദായക്കാർക്കു മൻഗണന
 കൊടുത്തു അവരെ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരായി നിയമിക്കണം. എന്നു അഭ്യ
 ത്തിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Devicollam*):
 അവരെ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിൽ നിയമിച്ചാൽ അവർ കള്ളുകടിക്കാതെയിരി
 കുമോ?

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH അതിലേക്കു കൃത്യനിക്ഷേപം ഹിന്ദുക്കളും തെ
 ങ്ങുള്ള സഹായിക്കണം. അവർ കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകൾ ഏറ്റെടുത്തു നടത്തു
 ന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇവർ കള്ളുകടിക്കുന്നതു്. കള്ളുകടിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ ചി
 ലപ്പോൾ അവരിൽനിന്നും തല്ലുകിട്ടുകയും ചെയ്യും.

MR. H. B. MAHAMED RAWTHER: കള്ളുകുടി നിറുത്തണമെന്നാഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH: ഞാൻ കുടിക്കുകയില്ല. മറ്റു സമുദായക്കാർക്കാണ് അത് അതിലേക്കു പ്രേരിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്. പൊതുവെ അതുനിറുത്തിയാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്നാഗ്രഹമുണ്ട്.

MR. N. VELUACHARY (Nominated): സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഞാൻ മുൻപുതന്നെ ഒന്നരണ്ടുതവണ എന്റെ സമുദായത്തെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞു. ഉദ്ദേശം മൂന്നുലക്ഷത്തോളം ജനസംഖ്യയുള്ള വിശ്വകർമ്മസമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നു പരീക്ഷപാസ്സായ അനേകം ആളുകൾ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിനുവേണ്ടി റോഡുനീളെ അലയുന്നുവെന്നു ഞാൻ ഇന്നലെ പ്രസംഗിച്ച അവസരത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞു. ന. ലക്ഷത്തോളമുള്ള ഈ കർമ്മാസമുദായത്തിൽനിന്ന് ൨൦ രൂപയിൽകൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളമുള്ളവർ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ മൂന്നുപേരെയുള്ളവെന്ന് മിനിഞ്ഞാന്നത്തെ ഇൻറർപ്പ്രൈഷൻ എനിക്കു മറുപടികിട്ടി. ഇതു കേട്ടാൽ മറ്റു സമുദായങ്ങളെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്ന സാമാജികന്മാർ അതിശയിക്കുകയില്ലേ എന്നു സംശയിക്കുന്നു. വളരെക്കാലങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പ് എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിലുള്ളവർ മറ്റുള്ളവർക്ക് ഉപയോഗമുള്ളവരായിരുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടല്ലേ അന്ന് അവരെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ചെയ്യിക്കുന്നതിന് മറ്റുള്ളവർ സമ്മതിപ്പിക്കാതിരുന്നിട്ടുള്ളത് എന്നു സംശയിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് പബ്ലിക് സർവീസിൽ പ്രവേശനംകിട്ടിയിട്ടില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഇന്ന് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ഉള്ളവർക്ക് ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും ഒരു സഹായം ചെയ്യുന്നപക്ഷം അവരുടെ സമുദായം അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുന്നതിനും പൂർവീകമായ അവരുടെതൊഴിൽ പഠിച്ച് മുന്നോട്ടു പോകുന്നതിനും സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ തൊഴിലുമില്ല; ഉദ്യോഗവുമില്ല; ഈ സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെന്റു മേവായി വിചാരിച്ച് പബ്ലിക് സർവീസ് റിക്രൂട്ട്മെന്റ് റൂൾസിന്റെ പരിധിയിൽനിന്നും ഈ സമുദായത്തെ ഒഴിച്ച് എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലെങ്കിലും പത്തോ ഇരുപതോ ഉദ്യോഗം എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട സാധുക്കൾക്ക് ഉടനെ കൊടുക്കണമെന്ന് വിനയപൂർവ്വം അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ബഹുമാനമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI (*Nominated*) : സർ, ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കാൻ എനിക്കു വളരെ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. കഴിഞ്ഞ ഒരു വസരത്തിൽ ഇതുപോലെയുള്ള ഒരു കട്ട മോഷനവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണറുടെ ആഫീസിൽ അവശജനസമുദായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട പരീക്ഷാവിജയികൾക്ക് ഉദ്യോഗം നൽകണം എന്ന് അപേക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കമ്മീഷണർതന്നെയായിരുന്നു അന്നും. കമ്മീഷണർ അവർകൾ അന്നു മറുപടിയിലഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടത് ഇവരിൽ പരീക്ഷാ യോഗ്യതയുള്ളവർ ആരെങ്കിലും വന്നാൽ അവരുടെ ഉദ്യോഗവിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റി പ്രത്യേകം ഗൗനിക്കാമെന്നാണ്. അതിനുശേഷം അവശജനങ്ങളിൽ അതായത്, മി: ജാൺജോസഫ് പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ബി. എ., സ്കൂൾഫൈനൽ മുതലായ പരീക്ഷാവിജയികളിൽ പലരും അപേക്ഷകൾ അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനം പബ്ലിക് സർവീസ് കമ്മീഷണറുടെ പരിധിയിലായതുകൊണ്ട് അപേക്ഷകളനുസരിച്ച് നിയമനം നടത്താൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നു എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞു തിരിച്ചയക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. പബ്ലിക് സർവ്വീസ് കമ്മീഷണറുടെ ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനത്തിൽ അംഗീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ചട്ടങ്ങളും നിയമങ്ങളും അവസരസമുദായങ്ങളുടെ അഭ്യേതം സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഒട്ടേറെ പശ്ചാത്തമപ്പെടുന്ന അതിനാൽ അതിലേക്കു പ്രത്യേകമായ എന്തെങ്കിലും നിയമങ്ങളും പ്രത്യേകതയും അംഗീകരിച്ച് കരേണലത്തേക്കെങ്കിലും അവശജനങ്ങളെ ഉദ്യോഗവിഷയത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഇതിനുമുമ്പ് പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഇവിടെ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള വസ്തുത വീണ്ടും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണറുടേയും പബ്ലിക് സർവീസ് കമ്മീഷണറുടേയും സർവ്വോപരി ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റേയും ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. മി: ജാൺജോസഫ് പറയുന്നതുപോലെ അവശജനങ്ങൾ, മദ്യപാനംകൊണ്ട് എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ ആവതുപോലെ പരിപോഷിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ഒരു കൂട്ടം ആളുകളാണെന്നുള്ളതിനു യാതൊരു സംശയവും ഇല്ല. ഇവരുടെ മദ്യപാനത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഇവിടെ ഒന്നും പറയണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഒന്നു രണ്ടു വർഷത്തിനു മുമ്പ്, ഒരു പബ്ലിക് സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ വച്ച് ഒരു മാനുവൽ “നിങ്ങളുടെ ജാതിക്കാർ കരം കൊടുക്കുന്നത് എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കല്ല, ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു നിങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കുന്ന

[Mr. T. T. Kesavan Sastri.]

ആദായത്തെ പരിഗണിച്ച് നിങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ നൽകണമെന്നും അവശ സമുദായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട ഒരംഗം മേലധ്യക്ഷനായിരിക്കുന്ന സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ കൂടുതൽ അവകാശവാദം ചെയ്യരുതോ" എന്നും ചോദിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ അവകാശവാദം ചെയ്യത്തക്ക സമുദായസ്ഥിതിയൊ അതിനതക്ക മറ്റു പരിതഃസ്ഥിതികളോ അവശജനങ്ങൾക്കിതുവരെ ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ഭാക്ഷിണ്യാതിരേകത്താൽ പല പല സഹായങ്ങളും ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങളും പ്രാതിനിധ്യതപത്തിന്മേലോ സമുദായവ്യവസ്ഥയിന്മേലോ ചെയ്യുന്നതിന്റെ ഫലമാണ് ഇന്ന് പബ്ലിക് സർവ്വീസിൽ അവശസമുദായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട ചില പ്യൂൺസിനെ എങ്കിലും കാണാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നത്. ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപംകൊണ്ട് ഉപക്ഷേപകൻ ആശിക്കുന്ന ഫലംതന്നെയാണ് ഞാനും പ്രത്യാശിക്കുന്നത്. ഏറ്റവും പ്രാമാണ്യമുള്ള എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ അവശജനങ്ങളിൽ തക്ക യോഗ്യതയും പരിക്ഷാവിജയവും സമ്പാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവരെ യഥാധോഗ്യം നിയമിച്ചു നിയമയമായും കൂടുതൽ പ്രോത്സാഹനം നൽകുന്നതിനു ദയവുണ്ടാകണമെന്നും അതിലേക്കായി ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റേയും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണറുടെയും ശ്രദ്ധ ഉടനടി ഉണ്ടാകണമെന്നും ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

MR. P. C. ADICHAN (*Nominated*) : സർ, ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാനും ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു. എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെ വാസ്തവം പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അവശസമുദായക്കാർ തന്നെയാണ് പരിപോഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നതെങ്കിലും, മറ്റുള്ളവരും ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഈ കള്ളുകുടികൊണ്ട് ധാരാളം ധനം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അതായത് ഞങ്ങളുടെ കള്ളുകുടി മറ്റുള്ളവർക്കു നയമനുഭവിച്ച് വരാൻപോലും സഹായിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

PRESIDENT : It is not such an exclusive prerogative. (*Laughter*.)

MR. P. C. ADICHAN : ഈ മാതിരി കള്ളുകുടികൊണ്ട് പണം സമ്പാദിച്ചശേഷം അവരെ പോട്ടു ചെയ്യാൻ പിടിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് പോകത്തക്കവണ്ണം ധനം സമ്പാദിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയും, തൻമൂലം ഞങ്ങളെ പിടിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഇരുട്ടറയിൽ ഇട്ടു ശുദ്ധവായുപോലും ശ്വാസിക്കാതെ ഇടാനും അവരെ സഹായിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ മാതിരിയുള്ള പലസഹായങ്ങളും ഞങ്ങൾ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലേക്കു ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ അവശസമുദായാംഗങ്ങൾക്ക് മുൻ ഗണ

ന നൽകി ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. KAVIYUR K. K. KOCHUKUNJU : സർ, ഞാനും ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. എന്റെ സ്റ്റേഫിതൻ മി: വേലുത്തുചാരി എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സമുദായത്തിൽ പെട്ട മൂന്നുപേരേ ഉള്ള എന്നു പറയുമ്പോൾ ഇവിടെ ഇരിക്കുന്നവർ എത്രമാത്രം അതിശയിക്കും എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ വർണ്ണവ സമുദായത്തിൽപെട്ട ആരുംതന്നെ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ ഇല്ലെന്നു പറയുമ്പോൾ അതു എത്രമാത്രം വിസ്മയാവഹമായിരിക്കും?

MR. N. VELU ACHARI : വർണ്ണവ സമുദായത്തിൽ എത്ര ജനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ട്?

MR. KAVIYUR K. K. KOCHUKUNJU : ഒരു ലക്ഷത്തോളംവരും. പബ്ളിക് സർവീസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ നിയമനത്തിനുശേഷം അവശസമുദായങ്ങളിലെ അംഗങ്ങൾക്ക് സർവീസിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കുന്നതിനു സാരമായ ചില പ്രതിബന്ധങ്ങളുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. പബ്ളിക് സർവീസ് കമ്മീഷണരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടും ൧൧൧൨ കന്നി ൧-ാം തീയതിവരെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റ് മേലധ്യക്ഷന്മാർക്കുതന്നെ നിയമനാധികാരം കൊടുത്തിരുന്നു. നിയമനാധികാരം പബ്ളിക് സർവീസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ചട്ടം നടപ്പിൽ വരുന്നതിനു മുൻപുതന്നെ അവരുടെ ബന്ധത്തിൽപ്പെട്ടവരെയും ചാർജ്ജ്ക്കാരെയും മറ്റു സ്വാധീനശക്തിയുള്ളവരെയും എത്രയും വേഗത്തിൽ നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനും അവരുടെ മൂന്നു വർഷത്തെ സർവീസ് തികക്കുന്നതിന് തുടന്നുകൊണ്ടു പോകുന്നതിനും പ്രസ്തുത ചട്ടം അവരെ സഹായിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. ആ അവസരത്തിൽ അവശജനങ്ങളുടെ ഭീനസുപരങ്ങൾ കേൾക്കുന്നതിനു ചെവിയില്ലാതെ വന്നതിൽ അവരെ ഞങ്ങൾ കുറ്റപ്പെടുത്താനില്ല. പക്ഷെ, ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥാപിത ഒരു ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ കീഴിൽ ഉള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റ് മേധാവികൾക്ക് ഇതു യോജിച്ചതല്ലെന്നു ഇനിയുമെങ്കിലും മനസ്സിലാക്കി അവശജനങ്ങളിൽ കരുണ തോന്നാതിരിക്കരുതെന്നു അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അവശജനങ്ങളെ ഉദ്ധരണം ചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ള സദ്ദേശത്തോടുകൂടിയാണ് ഈ സംരഭങ്ങൾ എങ്കിൽ അവർക്ക് അനുയോജ്യമായ അവകാശം ചെയ്തതരണമെന്നും മേലാലെങ്കിലും എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ അവശജനങ്ങൾക്കനുയോജ്യമായ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ നൽകണമെന്നും ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെന്റിനോ

[Mr. Kaviyoor K. K. Kochukunju.]

ഓം എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണറോടും അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. N. VELU ACHARI : മെമ്പറുടെ സമുദായത്തിൽ എത്ര ബി. എ. കാരും, എത്ര സ്കൂൾ ഫൈനൽ കാരുമുണ്ട്?

MR. KAVIYUR K. K. KOCHUKUNJU : എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിൽ ഒരു ബി-എ-കാരനും പത്തോ പന്ത്രണ്ടോ സ്കൂൾ ഫൈനൽ കാരും കുറെ എഴാം ക്ലാസ്സ് പരീക്ഷാ വിജയികളും ഉണ്ട്.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : As regards future recruitments, Mr. John Joseph knows that they are governed by the Public Service Recruitment Rules which contain ample provision for special encouragement of the backward communities. So far as my office is concerned, when I was making appointments, I did all that was possible. I appointed a graduate belonging to the community of Mr. Velu Achari as a clerk in my office, but, unfortunately, he left my office at the same time for seeking better jobs elsewhere. Similarly, in regard to the community of Mr. John Joseph also, I was doing my best when I was making appointments. Large numbers of them were appointed as Peons. Some have been appointed as Petty officers. At present, Sir, recruitment to the Public Service, is, as is well known, governed by Rules which, as I said, contain ample provision for the encouragement of the members of the backward communities.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 135 and 136.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. KANNARA GOPALA PANICKAR :

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,696 for Head Clerk, Head Accountant etc., by Re. 1.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORATHARAKAN :

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 2.

Motion No. 137.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1.

Sir, in tabling this motion I had in view the unsatisfactory nature of the supervision work of this department. From 1107 to 1111, there has been a steady decline in the consumption of arrack throughout the State. In that, I do not say that the people should drink more arrack.

PRESIDENT : Is the fall due to the greater virtue or less supervision?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Less supervision Sir, improper supervision. From 58,027 gallons, it has come down to 38,757 gallons, 20,500 gallons of arrack we have refused to consume. At page 10 of his Administration Report in paragraph 23, the Excise Commissioner says—

“Arrack is consumed by the lower middle and the upper strata of the lower classes of the people who have been hit hard by the continuance of the economic depression.”

My friend Mr. John Joseph complained that the people of the country often condemned these communities for the drink habit; here, the Excise Commissioner himself has made the same allegation, complained against Mr. John Joseph. The Excise Commissioner complains.—

“The economic depression which set in by the closing part of 1103 M. E. continued with unabated vigour exhausting the economic vitality of the classes of people set forth above, so much so, that the purchasing power of the people is at its fading point.”

When you come to the question of prosecutions for offences under the Abkari Regulation, you find there is phenomenal fall in 1111 in the number of cases prosecuted. As a person who keeps his eyes open and also listens to what others say outside, I am convinced that this explanation given by the Excise Commissioner is not at all convincing. There is fundamental, important, lack of supervision to a very high degree. Out of 2,700 cases prosecuted in 1110, about 96 per cent. have ended in conviction. The number of cases prosecuted by the department in the year 1111 is only 2,208, a marked difference of about 400 and the percentage of conviction is also less. If, as a matter of fact, the subordinates of the department were properly discharging their duties and supervising effectively, I am sure they could have brought to book a larger number of offenders. Also, if, as a matter of fact, the fall in the figures has been due to temperance, I could understand the wisdom of the policy pursued by the Department. But, on the other hand, it is due to laxity of supervision on the part of the department.

What do the Government themselves say after perusing all the reports and also the data available with them? They say:—

“The fall in the consumption of jaggery arrack is attributed by the Excise Commissioner, as in the previous year's report, mainly to the persistent economic depression and the low purchasing power of the drinking population. Government has also recorded in the last year's review that they are unable to accept this explanation as entirely correct, in the face of the fact, that during 1108, when the economic depression was equally, if not more, acute, the quantity consumed was more or less the same as in 1107. The steady decline in the consumption of liquor is probably due more to increase in illicit distillation than to economic depression.”

Sir, if as I said there was a betterment in the condition of the condition of the drinking population I could understand. If people are developing the habit of temperance I could understand. If on the other hand with the progress we are making in other directions we find that people are becoming more and more drunken in their habits and getting more and more free drinks as it were, what can it be due to?

[Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai.]

It can be due only to the large scale illicit distillation that is going on in this country. Taluks which were consuming jaggery arrack on a very large scale have now begun to boast of anti-arrack people. People do not want jaggery-arrack. Then what is the other arrack that is available in those taluks? It must be illicit toddy-arrack. When excellent toddy-arrack is available in a locality, why should the Travancorean who is accustomed to drink, go in for jaggery-arrack? You find, Sir, there is another method adopted by the Department for the purpose of encouraging this sort of illicit distillation and drinking of illicit arrack. A kind of brandy called cocoa-brandy is being manufactured under the direct supervision of the Excise Department. It is kept on a par with foreign liquor. The same value as of the foreign liquor is demanded for a bottle of cocoa-brandy, probably for helping foreign liquor merchant. Now, if that be the case, Sir, would it be possible for you to encourage the sale of the new kind of brandy that the Excise Department is now trying to put into the market, when the cocoa-brandy which is nothing but toddy-arrack coloured and flavoured can be had only on payment of a price which is equal to the foreign brandy. I can very well understand the reason why people are resorting to this method of illicit distillation whereby they can get, though not the high-sounding cocoa-brandy, the toddy-arrack which in quality is the same though in colour it may be different. This system of illicit distillation, Sir, must be prevented. The Excise Commissioner Says.—

"The weak issue strength of arrack is....no safe temperance measure from fiscal and moral standpoints in a country like Travancore."

(we can have only a country like Travancore.)

"where facilities for illicit arrack are copious beyond measure unless there is a preventive and detective machinery equal to the requirements."

When was this discovered by the Excise Commissioner, Sir? Was not this Excise Department in charge of the Abkari revenue and functioning in the State for the past several years?

PRESIDENT: The honourable member has one minute more.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: If, as a matter of fact, the Excise Commissioners in charge of the Department at any time thought that the illicit distillation in the country would be stopped only by the recruitment of an efficient detective staff, would not that matter have been brought to the notice of this House and considered by Government? Now, it is found that smuggling is going on. The Excise Commissioner wanted a flying squad and the flying squad was granted him, even though they are reported to be only flying about. This is a belated discovery and it is due to the fact that there has been a lack of supervision in the working of the Department.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Sir,

PRESIDENT: The honourable member has three minutes and then the time allotted for the demand lapses.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : The honourable member Mr. Krishna Pillai seems to have read only the rivew of Government.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : Sir, I read the other pages also.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : If he had only read pages 7 and 8 of my report he would have seen that I myself openly admitted that the fall in the consumption of arrack is due to the prevalence of illicit arrack. I did not conceal that fact and I also explained the reasons why illicit arrack is coming in. The Government some years ago openly declared it as their policy to attain prohibition gradually. They wanted to reduce the number of arrack shops at every biennial contract. They wanted to enhance the duty upon arrack. So such so that the number of arrack shops which stood at 498 in 1107 by gradual stages was brought down to 409 at the end of 1111. When the number of shops is reduced it is inevitable that the consumption of liquor should come down. Again, people are not satisfied with the weak liquor that is supplied by the Department. They want something stronger and therefore they resort to all sorts of malpractices. I have fully explained that aspect of the question in my report and I have also placed it before the Government pointing out the need for revising the policy which the Government thought fit to announce some years back (President's bell.)

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions Nos. 138 to 168.

The time allotted for the Demand having expired, the following motions lapsed :

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR :

138. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :

139. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 45,049 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

(To urge upon the attention of Government the necessity of making the State self-sufficient in regard to the production of salt.)

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI :

140. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 45,049 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

(To point out that greater attention should be paid in the matter of collecting arrears.)

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH :

141. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 45,049 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

(To discuss about the defects in the administration of and appointments in the Excise Department and to suggest remedies therefor.)

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

142. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 45,049 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

(To discuss the sale of the Nagercoil Distillery.)

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

143. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 45,049 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

(To discuss the abkari policy of the Government.)

MR. KANNARA GOPALA PANICKAR :

144. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,344 for Assistant Excise Commissioners by Re. 1.

(To discuss the over representation of certain communities in the Excise Department.)

MR. KANNARA GOPALA PANICKAR :

145. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,732 for Establishment by Re. 1.

(To point out some of the vagaries in the policy of the Government in the matter of appointments in the Excise Department.)

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI :

146. To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,080 for Clerks (Temporary.)

(To point out that the provision of additional staff is unnecessary.)

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR :

147. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 100.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH :

148. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 18,150 for Inspectors (Temporary) by Re. 1.

(To point out the necessity of appointing qualified members of backward communities (Christians and Hindus) as Inspectors in the Excise Department.)

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM :

149. To omit the allotment of Rs. 18,150 for Inspectors (Temporary.)

MR. KANNARA GOPALA PANICKAR :

150. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 59,526 for salaries by Re. 1.

(To discuss communal representation in the matter of appointments in the Excise Department.)

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR :

151. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 19,150 for travelling allowance by Re. 100.

(To speak of Range-Inspectors being subsidised by toddy contractors, lest for offences they should be charged.)

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI :

152. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,16,223 for Ranges by Re. 1.

(To discuss about the desirability of appointing more Petty officers and Peons in certain taluks for detecting the illicit manufacture and sale of country arrack.)

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI :

153. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,483 for Tobacco Bankshall, by Re. 1.

(To discuss the present policy of the department.)

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL :

154. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,483 for Tobacco Bankshalls by Re. 1.

(To discuss the means for preventing smuggling in the Northern Frontier.)

MR. E. P. VARGHESE :

155. To omit the allotment of Rs. 86,033 for Provisional staff of Sub-Inspectors, Petty officers etc., (Temporary.)

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI :

156. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,65,681 for Excise by Re. 1.

(To discuss the general policy of the department, with a view to point out, the serious defects in the administration of the department, and to urge the necessity of separating the Excise and the Customs Department.)

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI :

157. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,65,681 for Excise by Re. 1.

(To press for a more active promotion of temperance.)

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR :

158. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,65,681 for Excise by Re. 1.

(To discuss how far the abkari policy is followed.)

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :

159. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,475 for Inspectors (Temporary) by Re. 1.

(To consider the question of smuggling and to suggest ways and means for prevention.)

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL :

160. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,770 for Inspectors by Re. 1.

(To discuss the necessity for stopping duties on the produce of the coconut tree)

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN :

161. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 21,850 for Customs by Re. 1.

(To discuss the principle of fixing tariff values.)

MR. KANNARA GOPALA PANICKAR :

162. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 21,850 for Customs by Re. 1

(To discuss the desirability of abolishing export duty on coconut products.)

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR :

163. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7,32,928 under Demand V by Re. 1

(To discuss the insufficient representation of some communities viz., Hindu Nadars, S. I. U. C. I. Latin Catholic Nadars, Chetties and Krishnanvaka in the Excise Department.)

MR. E. P. VARUGHESE :

164. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7,32,928 under Demand V by Re. 1

(To discuss the very poor representation of the Latin Catholics in the Excise Department.)

MR. K. KESAVAN :

165. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7,32,928 under Demand V by Re. 1

(To bring to the notice of the Government that Fzhavas are not properly represented in this department and they are not encouraged in this department.)

MR. K. KESAVAN ;

166. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7,32,928 under Demand V by Rs. 100

(To bring to the notice of the Government the undesirability of allowing women to sell toddy in toddy shops.)

MR. K. T. THOMAS :

167. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7,32,928 under Demand V by Re. 1

(To press the need for stationing an officer with special training in salt, in South Travancore Excise Range)

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN :

168. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7,32,928 under Demand V by Re. 1

(To discuss the undesirability of allowing women to take part in the actual sale of toddy and similar liquor in toddy shops.)

The Demand was put to vote and carried. The grant was made.

DEMAND VI—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE—

Rs. 10,94,158.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 10,94,153 under Demand VI, Administration of Justice.

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